

Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Chair Herro called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Ken Herro (Chair), Jim Jeskewitz, Paul Pronold, and Carl Seitz. Alicia Silva arrived at 1:12 p.m. Mareth Kipp arrived at 2:22 p.m. (due to other county business) and left at 3:38 p.m. Pronold left the meeting at 2:05 p.m. Carl Seitz left the meeting at 3:38 p.m. **Absent:** Sandy Wolff.

Also Present: Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Legislative Policy Advisor Dave Krahn, Senior Services Director Cathy Bellovary, Transportation Coordinator Deb Feight, Senior Financial Analyst Steve Krafcheck, Senior Financial Analyst Clara Daniels, Senior Financial Analyst Andy Thelke, Health & Human Services Director Peter Schuler, Criminal Justice Collaborating Council Coordinator Michelle Cyrulik, Administrative Services Manager Russ Kutz, County Board Supervisor Rodell Singert, Women's Center Counseling Services Director Mary Hennis, and Women's Center Executive Director Marie Kingsbury.

Approve Minutes of June 12, 2003

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Pronold to approve the minutes of June 12. Motion carried 4-0.

Silva arrived at 1:12 p.m.

Legislative Update

Krahn distributed copies of his legislative update as it relates to health and human services. Regarding SB 71, mental health parity legislation, Krahn said a number of counties and entities are in support of this bill. There will be hearing on July 22 and in the meantime, he's waiting for direction from County staff, both from Health & Human Services and Administration. Similar legislation has been introduced on the federal level with 64 sponsors in the Senate including Sen. Herb Kohl, and 241 in the House or Representatives. Krahn said federal legislation would be ideal but either is a step in the right direction.

Regarding SB 82, changes to Kinship Care, there was a hearing on its companion bill in the Assembly. Krahn said he shared a substantive e-mail message from Health & Human Services Staff on the subject with Representatives Jeskewitz and Vukmer. He didn't know if the bill would go anywhere. It's a tough bill to oppose because it enhances Kinship Care but it could also cost counties a bit more to provide.

Krahn, referring to the budget bill, said Governor Doyle has already announced some vetoes, none of which have a huge impact on counties. The one we're all waiting for, of course, is the property tax freeze issue and exactly what he'll do with that. He believes Doyle is looking for a win/win situation. The County Board Chair sent a letter to Doyle asking him to veto the property tax freeze. Krahn said this issue is a political hot potato and has nothing to do with the state budget. Either way, there's no way Doyle will get close to reducing the \$1.6 billion deficit this year and it'll still be a big problem for the next biennium budget.

Krahn advised that Waukesha County has asked for a veto that would limit how much money counties will have to pay towards the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS). The legislature has called for a 50% pick up by counties but we're hoping Doyle will change this to 30%. We've also asked for a veto on the Juvenile Correctional Services Revenue Sufficiency component that's included the budget. Any juvenile correctional facility deficits found by the Department of Corrections would mean automatic rate increases to be paid by counties to reduce deficits.

Future Agenda Items

- Discuss Mental Health Parity Legislation with Department of Administration and Health & Human Services Staff (Herro)

Discuss the Specialized Transportation Program as Recorded in the 2002 Year-End Report of the Department of Senior Services

Bellovary said Waukesha County's transportation program is for seniors 65 and older, as well as those 18-54 who are disabled. Beginning in 2003, in order to be compliant, they began serving younger disabled children, however, not school related. They are also now doing nursing home transportation. These clients must have certified nursing assistants accompany them. All users are required to complete an eligibility form. Feight distributed 2003 fare and eligibility information which were discussed briefly. There are five fare ranges and they are based on income.

Bellovary said the average number of one-way Rideline trips decreased from 40,000 in 2001 to 24,000 in 2002. She believes this is mainly due to their having to change the door-to-door policy and because they've had to raise fares two years in a row. The Shared Fare Taxi Program is the least expensive form of transportation and whenever a client can use this service, they will. The net cost of a Rideline trip is \$19.58 versus a Shared Fare Taxi trip which ranges from \$1.46 to \$4.24 depending on the community. The majority of the Rideline passengers are 75 to 89 year of age, most of whom are non-ambulatory. In 2002, 48.9% of all Rideline trips were provided to passengers in the lower passenger fare ranges (A and B), with 19.6% in the mid-range (C), and 31.5% in the highest ranges (D and E). Most of the Rideline trips were for medical purposes, followed by Employment, and then for nutrition purposes. Most of them were in the City of Waukesha followed by Menomonee Falls, and then Muskego. The majority of the Shared Fare Taxi trips were for personal business, followed by employment, and then medical.

Pronold left the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Discuss Financial Year-End Report, General Fund and Special Revenue Fund, for the Department of Senior Services

Krafcheck reviewed the 2002 year-end fiscal report as outlined. Both the Senior Services Elderly Nutrition Fund and the Senior Services General Fund showed favorable year-end budget variances of \$37,707 and \$263,644 respectively.

Status Update on Activities of the Criminal Justice Collaborating Council

Schuler and Cyrulik were present to discuss this issue. Schuler advised that various standing committees and workgroups have been formed as a result of the CJCC to examine various topics and bring forward proposals, modifications, and changes. For informational purposes, Schuler distributed a list of the Council's membership as well as membership on the subcommittee and workgroups. Topics for discussion and study include juvenile justice, jail utilization, community service programs, educational and vocational, specialized treatment, re-entry services, public relations, prevention, etc. A strategic planning session was held at WCTC. Two consultants with the National Institute of Corrections, who were part of the original study, returned for this session to help form goals.

Kipp arrived at 2:22 p.m.

Schuler said included in last year's budget were dollars to begin the screening process for people coming into the justice system. Two pretrial screeners will be hired (an RFP has gone out) and they hope to fill these positions in August. The screening process will allow the County to gain more exact information and data. Staff are still trying to identify and use a scientific database approach as to who's in the jail and what should be done with them. Cyrulik said the RFP's from vendors will be back next week and they hope to have this part of the process done by September.

For informational purposes, Cyrulik distributed copies of "Waukesha County CJCC Monthly Activity Report – July, 2003." Cyrulik said the Data and Information Committee has worked very hard on the data warehouse which houses all of the County's justice-related data. Staff now have the ability to extract data and they have been doing some analyses. The Juvenile Justice Committee has only met once to date due to membership transitions but they are meeting again today. The Programs and Alternatives Committee will begin meeting in two weeks.

Cyrulik said the Council has applied to participate in a drug treatment court planning initiative for 2004. This is a non-monetary award and involves training. She said they hope to know by next week whether the Council has been chosen to receive the award. The big issue right now for the CJCC's Executive Committee is the 2004 budget. Schuler noted that this budget will be under the Health & Human Services Department.

Discuss Financial Year-End Report, Special Revenue Fund, for the Department of Health & Human Services

Kutz reviewed the 2002 year-end fiscal report as outlined. Both the Human Services Fund 150 and the Long Term Care Fund 310 showed a favorable year-end budget variance of \$346,093 and \$99,457 respectively. The Mental Health Center Fund 350 showed an unfavorable budget variance of -\$54,716. The reasons for the unfavorable variance in Mental Health include increased personnel costs due to long term family leave, lower than anticipated fourth quarter client fee revenues, and decreased revenues from Federal Government Medicare interim rate settlements.

Acknowledge Application and Receipt of Grant Funds for Community Services Intensive Tracking

Esler said this is being brought forward for informational purposes and that the balance of the revenues will be appropriated in next year's budget. Kutz noted that this particular grant has been around for a number of years and the annual amounts tend to fluctuate. Contracts are adjusted annually to reflect actual grant amounts.

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Silva to adjourn at 3:38 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Kipp and Seitz left the meeting following the adjournment. The remaining committee members (non-quorum) reconvened at the Women's Center. Executive Director Marie Kingsbury distributed a handout on the center's operations and costs (filed with committee correspondence). After the presentation, committee members and staff toured the \$3.2 million facility, and the tour concluded at 5:30 p.m.

Recorded by Mary Pedersen, Legislative Associate.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Silva
Secretary